

SOCIETY

(Continued from Page 2.)

Saltzman, McClintock of Virginia; Needames J. S. Doan, M. L. Parker, H. L. Hearne, E. E. McAdams, S. B. Holman, J. W. James, F. L. Webb, A. Benbow, L. L. Click, R. S. Webb Jr., J. M. Gordon, J. H. Herrington, Miller, Kibler, R. W. Howell, W. T. Bryant.

Bunco Party—

Monday being St. Valentine's Day, Miss Sunshine Cotman bedecked the reception parlors of the Cotman home with red and white heart effects, and in them was a scene to fit the setting when she entertained a number of her friends from 8 to 11 with bunco and a guessing contest, the success prize in the former going to Mr. Louis Tuttle and in the latter to Mr. Elwood Cookenboo.

Throughout the evening fruit punch regaled the attendants with its effervescent sweetness, and at the close of the amusement a course of angel food cake and heart-shaped ice cream was dispensed and thoroughly enjoyed.

The entertainment was in honor of Miss Faye Buchanan of Bryan who has been visiting her brother, D. C. Buchanan, manager of one of the Sorrell plantations. Miss Buchanan has been spending this week in Wharton, to the delight of her many friends.

Those who participated in the bunco party were Miss Faye Buchanan, honoree; Misses Marie and Constance Moore, Dulcie March, Violet Hobbs, Mabel Fraley, Newell Compton and Tommie Cotman; Messrs. John Moore, Millard Walker, Elwood Cookenboo, Louis Tuttle, A. B. Hutchins, Frank Sorrell, Clar Morrison and Roy Pickard.—Wharton Spectator.

Mrs. Geo. A. Adams Hostess to

Embroidery Club—The Embroidery Club met with a charming and delightful hostess this week, when Mrs. George Adams entertained at 3 o'clock, on the regular club day, and the participation of the unlimited hospitality which is a notable characteristic of this hostess clearly marked this as an affair of unusual enjoyment.

No other diversion save the doing of hand work occupies these hours, which give opportunity for much interchange of friendly chat, and during the time together many new do-

signs in crochet and embroidery are shown.

Contributing to the charm of the afternoon's sociability were instrumental number given by Miss Bernice Harris, who is such a popular musician, each number being heartily enjoyed and thoroughly enjoyed.

As a pleasant conclusion to the afternoon the hostess invited the guests into the dining room, where a delicious ice course with strawberries and individual cake was served from an attractively decorated table. Salted nuts and mints were passed by Miss Dorothy Adams, who assisted the hostess during the afternoon.

ATKINS ASKS RE-ELECTION.

J. M. Atkins of Rock Prairie, present incumbent as commissioner of Precinct No. 1, authorizes the Eagle to announce him for re-election subject to the action of the July Democratic primary. Mr. Atkins has lived in Brazos County and in the precinct in which he now resides, and in which he is a candidate, for the past twenty-four years, coming to Brazos County when but 9 years of age. He succeeded his father as commissioner by appointment of the court upon the death of his father a year ago. Since entering upon his duties he has rendered faithful service, has not missed a single meeting of the court and has given the people the best roads and bridges the precinct has ever had.

Mr. Atkins says he started out in life for himself with nothing, but by hard work and close attention to business has made a success of his own affairs and feels that he is competent to render valuable service in conducting the affairs of the county in an up to date, business way.

If re-elected Mr. Atkins promises to continue the same faithful service he has given in the past, leaving nothing undone that will further the interests of his precinct and of the whole county.

He is a good man and citizen, honorable and reliable, is the friend of all and says if he has an enemy in the county he does not know who it is. He will appreciate all the support given him. The Eagle takes pleasure in submitting his claims to the Democracy of the precinct.

FERTILIZER FOR SALE.

Industrial Acid Phosphate. I will have a car on track Saturday, March 4. Come and load up. See me at Palermo Bros. store. T. M. SALVATO.

Open Letter to Congressman Hardy on Preparedness

Taken to Task on Position Opposing Pres. Wilson

Bryan, Tex., Feb. 29.—Hon. Rufus Hardy, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.—Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your letter of Feb. 19, which I had already seen liberally quoted in the press of our state. It would not call for a reply but for some errors of statements which I attribute to the haste of preparation or to careless reading of the resolutions adopted by your constituents of this city.

The resolutions do not ask you to follow the president blindly. They distinctly declare "that the details of needed and efficient expansion of the army and navy are matters of expert and technical knowledge which we do not possess, but we will cheerfully approve any plans which the president, the congress and their advisers may evolve in the wisdom of counsel." There is in this expression no hint of blind following of the president. On the contrary, it is a broad avowal of confidence in the high purpose of both the congress and the president, and it distinctly recognizes the fundamental principles of co-ordination between the legislative and the executive functions of our government.

"The policy of better national preparedness for defense as advocated by President Wilson" was the policy deliberately recommended in his message to congress which the mass meeting was considering. It was not the policy which alarmists might infer by a strained construction of chance phrases in his later public addresses. I was myself a little disturbed by his reported declaration for the greatest navy in the world, but in the light of pending complications and portents, I am not so confident that he is wrong even in that. I call your attention to an Amsterdam dispatch in the newspapers of Feb. 27, quoting a distinguished German naval officer who affirms that "a majority of German naval officers believe that a complete breach between Germany and America would be conducive to a far earlier victorious termination of the war, and concludes with the statement that "America, when defeated, would have to surrender all German merchant ships which she had seized and also to pay all war costs of the central powers and their allies." For aught we know, similar views may be entertained by other warring nations.

But more portentous than any contemplation of war and tribute by a foreign country is the present attitude of many members of congress in wishing actually to abrogate the right of American citizens to travel on the high seas. As the president aptly phrases it in his letter to Senator Stone, "to forbid our people to exercise their rights for fear we might be called upon to vindicate them would be a deep humiliation indeed." I assume that members of congress are moved to accept such humiliation because they realize that we are not now prepared to vindicate the rights of travel. I cannot conceive an American congress for any other reason deliberately abandoning the principle of the freedom of the seas. For prudential reasons I would forego the privilege of travel for pleasure under present conditions, but I would not surrender my right to use the world's highways, and I insist upon the protection of my government when duty or legitimate business requires me to travel. I have no need for government when I am unmolested; I need it only when my rights are denied. If the flag is not an emblem of protection, it is merely a rainbow of silly sentiment.

I note your quotation from the testimony of Admiral Fletcher, concerning the relative strength of our navy, and from the testimony of General Miles to the effect that we are now prepared to repel an invasion of 500,000 men. A sufficient answer to both is that they are discounted by the preponderance of evidence to the contrary. If you were a judge on the bench, I think you would be warranted under the law and the evidence in instructing the jury to render a verdict for preparedness. But I cannot refrain from expressing the opinion that the operations at this moment under way at Verdun furnish a conclusive demonstration that General Miles was thinking in terms of our Indian wars and of our easy victory over decrepit Spain, rather than in terms of European efficiency. When the South seceded, some of our military sharps declared that we could "whip the Yankees before breakfast." On the other hand, President Lincoln first thought to subdue the South with 75,000 volunteers. The result on both sides was a sad demonstration that "pride goeth before a fall." I do not doubt that we would ultimately expel an invasion of even 500,000 men, but it would be after a long and costly struggle which it were far wiser to avert. We could raise a million men

in a night, as Mr. Bryan so vaingloriously declares, but to set them against the veterans of Europe would be like sending a flock of sparrows against a squadron of eagles. Such boasting is evidence of insufferable national conceit or of mental obsession bordering on emotional madness.

I am duly impressed by your imposing figures of the cost of armies and navies, but I submit that if we need an army and a navy we must have them at any cost we can bear. It is proper to discuss the question of need, but if the need be established the only question as to cost is what the nation can afford. To consider the problem from the standpoint of cost is to set "the dollar above the man," to make ease and comfort paramount to righteousness and honor. Pardon me for saying so, but that is precisely what the extreme pacifists are doing. Nothing is more deceptive than pacifist platitudes. You say: "The truth is, no war ever began without some criminal agency or vicious incentive somewhere." That sounds well until it is applied to a given case. Apply it to the war between the American states, for instance, and it is both an unwitting perversion of history and an unwarranted impeachment of Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis, and their hosts of patriotic and unselfish followers who honestly differed about an important principle of government. When such differences arise between sovereign states or nations there is no appeal but to the arbitrament of arms, because a sovereign cannot in the nature of sovereignty yield its judgment or its conviction to a higher power. I am sure that each of the nations now at war regards its cause as embodying self-preservation and righteous principle. Besides, though we may be free from criminal or vicious impulse, we cannot restrain it in others except by the power of resistance.

I note your objection to the proposed "continental army" and your preference for an enlarged militia force. It is not necessary for us to discuss this point, as it is one of the details which our resolutions referred to the experts. Either would provide the citizen soldiery which the resolutions recommended as assurance against the sinister peril of militarism. However, I observe from the newspaper reports of yesterday that the house committee is about to report a bill which aims to conform the militia as far as possible to the continental army plan. If so, it will not be the first time that pride of opinion provoked the amusing exercise of distinguishing between tweedledum and tweedledee.

I am glad that you say: "I am for preparedness for defense, but not for aggression." In this statement of policy you do not differ from those of your constituents who have expressed themselves in favor of the president's program, nor from the president's profession of policy which is wholly for defense. But you differ from us widely in the interpretation of the statement, in your views upon our present military strength and in the spirit of the movement for preparedness.

The question at issue resolves itself mainly into the degree of preparedness that may be required for national safety. As to this I profess no exact knowledge; I prefer to heed the advice of those who are best qualified to know—the secretaries of war and navy, with their expert advisers—in the light of the revelations of the European war as to new and more powerful instruments of destruction and methods of warfare, I challenge the intimation of pacifists to the effect that our army and navy officers seek to plunge us into war and that military training makes men bellicose. Washington, Grant and Lee, our most illustrious soldiers, abhorred war; they fought only for defense as they conceived the cause of defense. What excuse is there for assuming that our present generals and admirals are more bloodthirsty or less patriotic than they? Physicians earn their living and win distinction by fighting disease, but they do not encourage disease. On the contrary, they do all in their power to prevent it.

What may have seemed sufficient preparedness two years ago is not sufficient now. I do not ignore the contention of the pacifists that the nations of the world who are our possible antagonists of the future will emerge from this contest exhausted in resources and too humbled in spirit again to take up arms. I simply dissent from that view because it is not the lesson of history; it dispels the unvarying factor of human passion which still governs individuals and nations. They will be crippled in resources, but they will be none the less warlike; they will all the more in-

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LOST.

LOST—Sunday morning, a black fur cape on road to Mudville. Finder return to Hotel Bryan and receive reward. Mrs. M. W. Sims.

cline to force an issue with us upon one or more of the several contentions already developed, and with their powerful navies and veteran armies they will be sorely tempted to replenish their exhausted treasuries from our fat stores. Besides, there are other militant nations than those now at war, and there is the turbulent land to the South of us whose borders the president solemnly declares we have not a sufficient army even to police.

Your letter is strangely contradictory. You say: "With all the strength of my soul I do believe we could repel the invaders—any possible invader of our shores—even today." Yet you favor the new national guard bill, involving an increase of the militia in men and money to about the strength of the proposed continental army, an increase of the standing army to the extent of about 30 per cent as proposed in the bill of the house committee, and "the greatest possible number of submarines." If we are already able to repel any possible invader, why should we increase either branch of the service? If I believed as you believe, I would not approve the slightest increase in either army or navy.

With all respect for your sincerity, please pardon me for saying that the intimation of an aggressive purpose upon the part of those who favor the president's program is unwarranted and that the fear of militarism is pacifist hysteria. Democracy has grown into the very fiber of our being. The vision of a "man on horseback" is but a dyspeptic nightmare. As well talk about the possibility of making the king of England an absolute monarch or of restoring temporal power to the pope of Rome.

But suppose, Mr. Hardy, that the future should fulfill the grave apprehensions of the president and his supporters in this policy. You will admit the fallibility of your thinking as well as of his. If he should prove to be wrong, he would do no worse than to put the country to the expense of a few hundred millions of dollars. If you should prove to be wrong, if an invader should come and we should not be able instantly to repel him as you vainly imagine, you would tax the country multiplied millions in devastation and incalculable loss in the lives of your fellow citizens called to a defense for which they are sadly unprepared. In that case the blood of the innocents would be upon

your head and not upon ours. I prefer to err, if there must be error of judgment as I freely concede there may be, upon the side of safety. If I understand your letter, you prefer to err upon the side of unsafety. Permit me to say that you are taking a fearful responsibility. If we prepare, and no war comes, you may laugh at our fears, though our preparedness will have been the very means of preventing war. If we do not prepare and war comes, a decimated and devastated nation will curse the pacifists who scorned the warnings of fact under the delusion of a poet's dream.

I note that your letter was inserted in the Congressional Record. I respectfully request that this reply also be inserted as a protest against shackling the nation in the face of peril. Very truly yours, CLARENCE OUSLEY.

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